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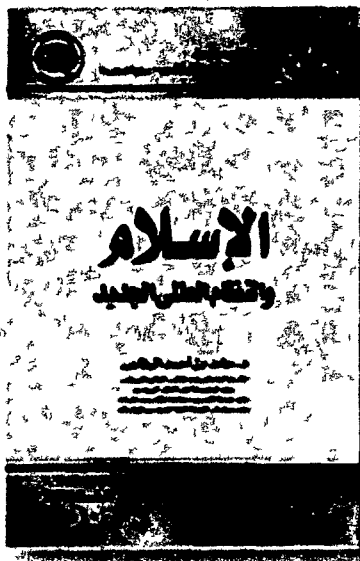
MWL Constituent Council Tackles Muslim Issues At 36th Session



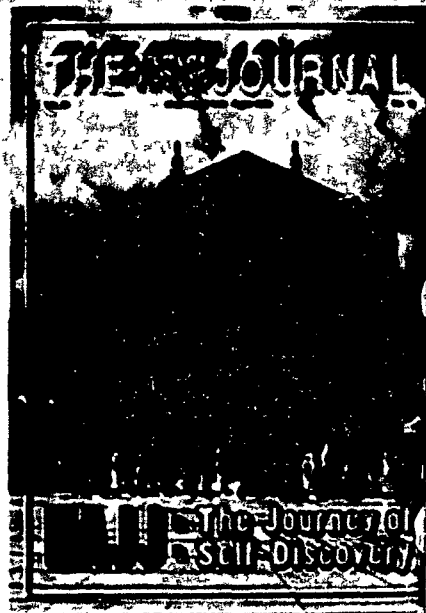
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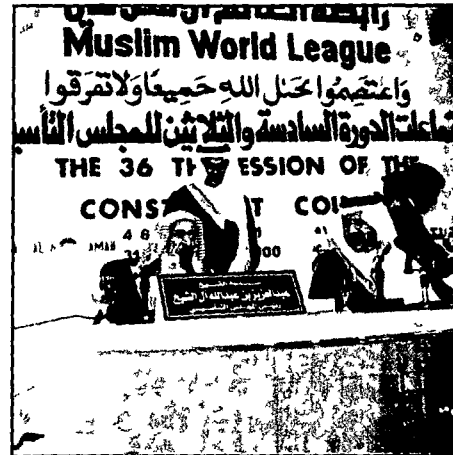
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MWL Council's 36th Session

7

The Muslim World League Constituent Council the apex policy making body of this international Islamic organization held its 36th session on 4 6 Sha ban 1421H in Makkah The three day session attended by Council's members drawn from Muslim communities from the various regions of the world adopted some far reaching and important resolutions on the issues facing the Islamic Ummah expressing at the same time Muslim view points on these problems A report on this important assembly by *Abir Ahmad Islahi and Muhammad Nasir*



Kashmir Rally for

Prominent Kingdom their commission President and attended Kashmiri I forge unity wage a um Kashmir F unanimous the formation group in cause Haque

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MWL Note to OIC Summit

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Rulers and heads of State and government of 56 Islamic nations assembled for their ninth Summit in Doha Qatar in November last in order to discuss the explosive situation caused by Israel's naked aggression against Palestinians TheMWL which attended the Summit as an observer presented a note to the Muslim leaders on the current Islamic issues along with its views and suggestions on them An extensive coverage of the important gathering

MWL London Office A Report

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The Muslim World League has been striving since its inception to disseminate the message of Islam worldwide To discharge this mission the League works through its regional offices in several countries in the East and West Within this framework the League's London Office has been playing a vital role in furthering its parent body's objectives for more than a decade A report on some of its recent activities filed by *Dr Mo-ammel Haque*



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Prominent Kashmiris living in the United Kingdom held an important meeting of the community in October 2000 at London. Presided over by Lord Nazir Ahmad and attended by more than 60 top British Kashmiri leaders, the meeting resolved to foster unity and cohesion in their ranks and wage a united struggle for the liberation of Kashmir. Foremost among the resolutions unanimously adopted by the gathering was the formation of a pro active political support group to work for this important Islamic cause. A report from *Dr. Mohammad H. Ali*



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QUR'AN

Guidance from the

G

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be¹ feared, and die not except in a state² of Islam And hold fast, all together, by the Rope³ which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves And remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you, for you were enemies⁴ and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, you became brethren And you were on the brink of the Pit of Fire, and He saved you from it Thus does Allah make His Signs clear to you, that you may be guided Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong they are the ones to attain felicity⁵ Be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs for them is a dreadful chastisement On the day when some faces will be (lit up with) white, and some faces will be (in the gloom of) black⁶ to those whose faces will be black, (will be said) "Did you reject Faith after accepting it? Taste then the chastisement for rejecting Faith" But those whose faces will be (lit with) white – they will be in (the light of) Allah's mercy therein to dwell (for ever)

(Qur'an, 3 102-107)

مَلِ اللّٰهَ
اِحْوَانًا
وَلْتَكُرْ
لَا
مَنْ تَنْصُرُ
مَا كُنْتُمْ

[١٧-١]

Commentary

1 Fear is of many kinds 1) the abject fear of the coward, 2) the fear of a child or an inexperienced person in the face of an unknown danger, 3) the fear of a reasonable man who wishes to avoid harm to himself or to people whom he wishes to protect, 4) the reverence which is akin to love, for it fears to do anything which is not pleasing to the object of love The first is unworthy of man, the second is neces-

sary for one immature, the third is a manly precaution against evil as long as it is unconquered, and the fourth is the seed-bed of righteousness Those mature in faith cultivate the fourth at earlier stages, the third or the second may be necessary, they are fear, but not the fear of Allah The first is a feeling of which anyone should be ashamed

2 Our whole being should be permeated with Islam it is not a mere veneer or outward show

3 The simile is that of people struggling in deep water, to whom a benevolent Providence stretches out a strong and unbreakable rope of rescue If all hold fast to it together, their mutual support adds to the chance of their safety

4 Yathrib was torn with civil and tribal feuds and dissensions before the Messenger of Allah set his feet on its soil After that it became the City of the Prophet, Madinah, and unmatched

brotherhood
Islam This
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5 Mufl
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QUR'AN

Glorious Qur'an

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾ (١٢) وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحُلِّ اللَّهِ
 حَمِيماً وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا بَعَثَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصَحَّتُمْ بِبِعَمَّتِهِ إِحْوَاناً
 وَكُنتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ﴾ (١٣) وَلَتَكُنَّ
 مَعَكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ﴾ (١٤) وَلَا
 تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا حَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ﴾ (١٥) يَوْمَ تَبْيَضُّ
 وَجُوهٌ وَتَسْوَدُّ وَجُوهٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ اسْوَدَّتْ وَجُوهُهُمْ أَكْثَرَتُمْ بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ
 تَكْفُرُونَ﴾ (١٦) وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ابْيَضَّتْ وَجُوهُهُمْ فَبِإِحْسَانٍ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ﴾ (١٧)

[آل عمران ١٢-١٧]

brotherhood, and the pivot of Islam This poor, quarrelsome world is a larger *Yathrib* can we establish the sacred feet on its soil, and make it a new and larger Madinah?

5 *Muflih, aflaha, falah* the root idea is attainment of desires, happiness, in this world and the next, success, prosperity, freedom from anxiety, care, or a disturbed state of mind—the opposite of *Azab* in the next verse, which includes failure, misery,

punishment or penalty, agony or anguish

The ideal Muslim community is happy, untroubled by conflicts or doubts, sure of itself, strong, united, and prosperous because it invites to all that is good, enjoins the right, and forbids the wrong—a master-stroke of description in three clauses

6 The “face” (*wajh*) expresses our personality, our inmost being White is the colour of light,

to become white is to be illumined with light, which stands for felicity, the rays of the glorious light of Allah Black is the colour of darkness, sin, rebellion, misery, removal from the grace and light of Allah These are the signs of heaven and hell The standard of decision in all questions is the justice of Allah

Translation & Commentary

Abdullah Yusuf Ali

Sunnah

Sayings of Prophet

Muhammad

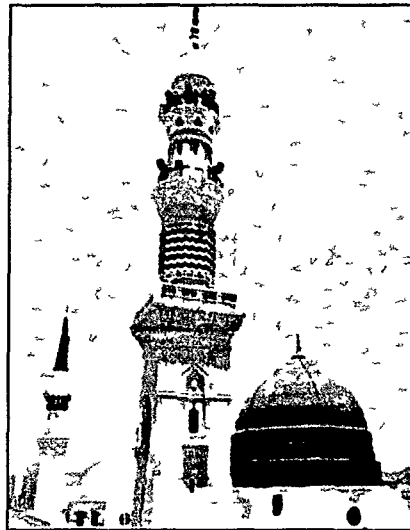
(peace be on him)

Essentials of a Muslim's Faith

★ It is narrated on the authority of Yahya Ibn Ya mur that the first man who discussed about *Qadr* (Divine Decree) in Basra was Ma bad Al Juhani. I along with Humaid Ibn Abdur Rahman Himyari set out for pilgrimage or for *Umrah* and said: Should it so happen that we come into contact with the one among the companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace be on him) we would ask him about what is talked about *Taqdir* (Divine Decree).

Accidentally we came across Abdullah Ibn Umar Ibn Al Khattab while he was entering the Mosque. I and my companion surrounded him. One of us (stood) on his right side and the other one stood on his left. I expected that my companion would authorize me to speak. I therefore said: Abu Abdur Rahman, there have appeared some persons in our land who recite the Holy Qur'an and pursue knowledge. And then after talking about their affairs, added: They (such persons) claim that there is no such thing as the Divine Decree and events are not predestined.

He (Abdullah Ibn Umar) said: When you happen to meet such persons tell them that I have nothing to do with them and they have nothing to do with me. And verily they are in no way responsible for my (belief). Abdullah Ibn Umar swore by Him (the Lord) and said: If any one of them (who does not believe in the Divine Decree) had with him gold equal to the bulk of (the mountain) Uhud



and then he should spend it (in the way of Allah). Allah would not accept it unless he affirms his faith in the Divine Decree and further said:

My father Umar Ibn Al Khattab told me: One day we were sitting in the company of the Messenger of Allah (peace be on him) when there appeared before us a man dressed in extremely white clothes, his hair extraordinarily black. There were no signs of (fatigue) of journey on him. None amongst us recognized him. At last he sat along with the Apostle of Allah (peace be on him). He leaned his knees before his knees and placed his palms on his thighs and said: Muhammad, inform me about *Al Islam*. The Messenger of

Allah (peace be on him) said: *Al Islam* implies that you testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and you establish prayers, pay Zakat, observe the fast of Ramadan and perform Pilgrimage to the (House) if you are solvent enough (to bear the expense of) the journey.

He (the inquirer) said: You have told the truth. He (Umar Ibn Al Khattab) said: It amazed us that he would put the question and then he would himself verify the truth. He (the inquirer) said: Inform me about *Al Iman* (faith). He (the Noble Prophet) replied: That you affirm your faith in Allah, in His Angels, in His Books, in His Apostles, in the Day of Judgment, and you affirm your faith in the Divine Decree to good and evil.

He (the inquirer) said: You have told the truth. He (the inquirer) again said: Inform me about *Al Ihsan* (performance of good deeds). He (the Noble Prophet) said: That you worship Allah as if you were seeing Him, for though you don't see Him, He verily sees you.

He (the inquirer) again said: Inform me about the hour (of the Doom). He (the Noble Prophet) remarked: One who is inquired knows no more than the one who is inquiring (about it). He (the inquirer) said: Tell me about some of its indications. He (the Noble Prophet) said: That the slave girl would give birth to her mistress and master, that you would find barefooted destitute shepherds of goats vying with one another in the construction of magnificent buildings. He (the narrator Umar Ibn Al Khattab) said: Then he (the inquirer) made his way but I stayed with him (the Noble Prophet) for a long while. He then told me: Umar, do you know who this inquirer was? I replied: Allah and His Apostle know best. He (the Noble Prophet) remarked: He was Gabriel (the Angel). He came to you in order to instruct you in matters of religion.

Sahih Muslim

Trans. Abdul Hamid Siddiqi



Constituent Council Holds 36th Session

The Muslim World League Constituent Council held its 36th session, on 4-6 Sha'ban 1421H, 31 October 2 November 2000, at the MWL headquarters in Makkah Al-Mukarramah. The three-day deliberations of this apex body of the MWL was attended, among others, by the members of the Council, who represented Muslim communities from the various regions of the world, distinguished invitees, who included notables from Makkah, eminent Islamic scholars, Da'wah activists, community leaders, diplomats and other important personalities from the different walks of life.

The session was formally opened by Prince Abdul Majeed Ibn Abdul Aziz, Governor of the Makkah region on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz. In his inaugural address read out on his behalf by Prince Abdul Majeed King Fahd, urged utmost degree of solidarity and cooperation among Muslims to be able to overcome the various challenges that beset them.

Pledging all necessary material and moral support to the Palestinian brethren and heroes of Al-Aqsa King Fahd said: 'We in Saudi Arabia are keenly following up the tragic developments in Jerusalem and Palestine and shall do everything possible to extend the necessary political and moral support so that our Palestinian brethren may attain complete independence with Al-Quds as their independent state's capital.'

In this context, King Fahd recalled how Saudi Arabia since its establishment by the late King Abdul Aziz had been extending all support to the various Muslim causes and issues. The late founder had laid down and followed the tradition of consulting the religious scholars on important issues facing the Ummah and seeking their advice in finding solutions to them.

Highlighting the significance of the meeting that was being attended by eminent thinkers and scholars from the various regions of the world the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques hoped that they would be able to evolve a viable strategy to address and tackle the various issues which confront the Ummah. 'Your august assembly is

meeting at a critical juncture when the Muslim Ummah is facing a host of challenges the foremost among which is the issue of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qiblah of the Muslims, the site of our Noble Prophet's ascension to high heavens and the third Holy Mosque to which Muslims are encouraged to pay a visit to worship King Fahd said.

In this crucial phase of their contemporary history the Muslims must unify their ranks and strive to realize the highest degree of solidarity and cohesion King Fahd said. 'The more we are united among ourselves, the stronger we shall emerge as an Ummah. By virtue of this unity and cohesion our nation will be able to overcome the various challenges facing it and realize its legitimate rights.'

King Fahd said that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported the recent Muslim causes in Kosova and Chechnya and has sought to redress and alleviate the wrongs and injustices done to our brethren by their enemies in these two countries. 'We extended all possible assistance to rescue the Muslims in these countries and are still following up on relief projects for

MWL Council

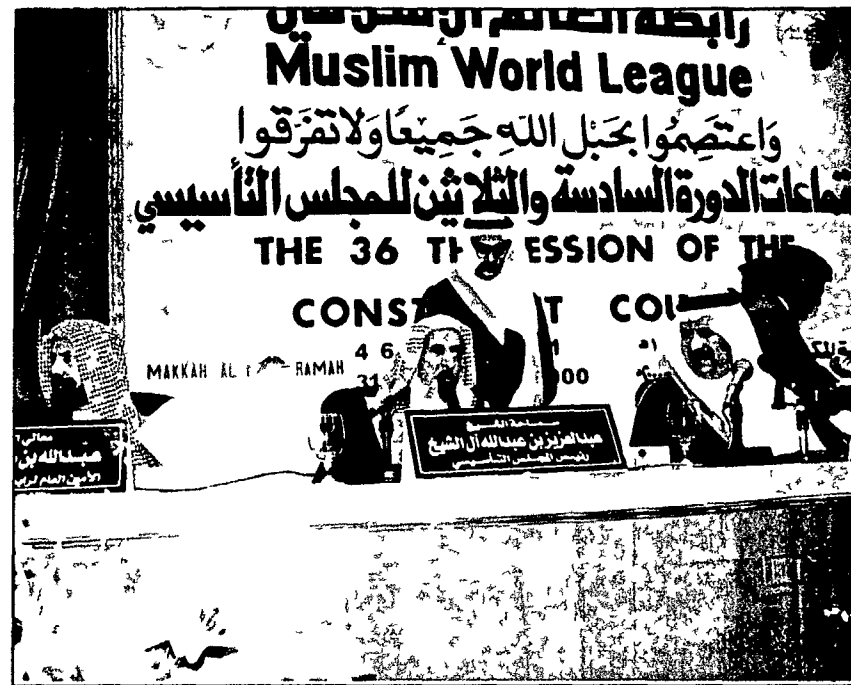
these war-ravaged Muslim regions, King Fahd said

The ceremony was then addressed by Shaikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdullah Al-Shaikh, Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti, President of the Board of Senior Ulema and the Presidency of Religious Research and Jurisprudence as well as Chairman of the MWL Constituent Council

Welcoming Prince Abdul Majeed and the distinguished participants Shaikh Abdul Aziz underscored the importance and urgency of the Council's deliberations coming at a time when the Muslim Ummah was facing serious challenges and grave crises as a result of the machinations and plots hatched by forces inimical to Islam and Muslims

Shaikh Abdul Aziz, echoing King Fahd's forceful plea for the Muslim unity and solidarity highlighted the overriding importance of abiding by the Glorious Qur'an and the Noble Prophet's Sunnah by all Muslims as in his view the main cause of the present weakness, disunity and disintegration in the ranks of the Ummah was its neglect of these two principal sources of its strength and guidance

Muslims must unite and cooperate with each other in order to resist and foil the plots against the Ummah by the enemies of Islam lying in wait' Shaikh Abdul Aziz said. In his view it was incumbent on our religious scholars and Dawah workers to call people to Allah with wisdom and good counsel, explain the excellence and virtues of the Islamic Shariah and provide leadership to the common



The opening ceremony of the 36th session of the MWL Constituent Council held at the League's headquarters in Makkah. (From left) Dr Abdullah Al Obeid, the former MWL Secretary General, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Al Shaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Prince Abdul Majeed Ibn Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah Region seated at the dais.

people in all walks of their life

The Grand Mufti pointedly referred to the campaign of slander and lies launched by enemies of Islam against its teachings and code of ethical conduct. He poured scorn on the false accusations being leveled against Saudi Arabia, by the enemies of Islam such as Amnesty International and others under the pretext of human rights. He retorted the allegations as baseless and a cover for the crimes being perpetrated against Muslims, while ignoring the injustices committed against them by Zionists and others like them.

These people and bodies conveniently gloss over the crimes against Muslims and pick up Muslim states in particular, Saudi Arabia for their false accusations. He

said emphatically that Saudi Arabia is ruled by Allah's Book and His Noble Prophet's Traditions and never does injustice to anyone," he said.

The meeting was then addressed by President Mamoun Abdul Qayyoom of Maldives, a senior member of the MWL Constituent Council who spoke on behalf of his colleagues in the Council. At the outset, President Abdul Qayyoom said that the Council was meeting at a critical juncture when the brave Muslims of Palestine were facing the brutal aggression launched by the Zionists against them.

The Zionists were attacking Palestinians, violating the sanctity of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem in gross violation of the

MWL Council

Muslim sentiments, in particular, and the UN resolutions in general in a bid to foil the peace process in the Middle East, impose their control on the Palestinian people and establish their hegemony on the region as a whole' he observed

President Abdul Qayyoom called on the MWL Council to express its full support and solidarity with the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people who are bravely facing Israel's barbaric aggression which has taken a heavy toll of life and property. He also referred to other problems being faced by the Muslims world such as the conflict in Chechnya and Kosova, the plight of Muslims of Philippines and the problems faced by the various Muslim minorities which dissipate the endeavours of the Ummah, sap its energy and pose a grave threat to its present and future.

Another equally serious threat posed to the Muslim world these days is that presented by the Christian missionaries who are out to spread their false creed and teachings among Muslims, President Abdul Qayyoom said and cautioned the assembly against this danger. In this regard he described the ceaseless endeavours of his Government to counter and foil this pernicious campaign and called on other Muslim governments and organizations to face up to the challenges posed by the Christian missionary bodies.

Dr Ezzeddin Laraki, OIC Secretary-General who also spoke on the occasion lauded the close ties that existed between the OIC and the MWL and underscored the important role played by the Muslim

World League which is in the forefront of the NGOs in the field of Islamic Da'wah.

It has been doing a yeoman's job by disseminating the message of Islam explaining its teachings and removing misconceptions about it. The MWL has organized a number of seminars and symposia on Islamic subjects and on jurisprudence themes and held a few seminars on human rights in Europe and South America,' Dr Laraki said.

The ceremony concluded with the address of Dr Abdullah Saleh Al-Obeid, Secretary-General of the Muslim World League who enumerated the various activities and accomplishments of the Muslim World League during the preceding year. In this context

Dr Obeid mentioned the MWL role in regard to the happenings and developments in such places as Palestine, Kosova and Chechnya, describing how the League had addressed appeals to the international organizations calling on them to act to put an end to aggressions in these regions and how it had provided succour and relief to the affected people.

The MWL also monitored and followed up the issues of Kashmir, Myanmar (Burma), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Afghanistan besides closely observing the problems faced by Muslims in other areas of the world.

Similarly, the Muslim World League also keenly observed and followed up the various challenges facing Muslims in social, economic and educational domains and with a view to redressing the situation,

took steps to expand its operations through its offices and Islamic Centres abroad. New MWL offices were opened in Italy, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan and USA in addition to Islamic Centres in Vienna (Austria), Mont La Jolle (France) and Conakry (Guinea) that work under its supervision and support.

The MWL organized during the preceding year a number of training courses for Imams (prayer leaders) and Da'wah workers to streamline and improve the Islamic Da'wah work. It also sponsored a number of visits by the Da'wah workers to the different regions of the world. The MWL Secretariat General also implemented a number of projects aimed at assisting Muslim communities in the various countries and sponsored visits of the representatives of many Islamic organizations and associations to the MWL headquarters in order to discuss with them issues of mutual concern.

Explaining the MWL activities in the field of countering ideological onslaughts and cultural invasion of the Muslim lands, Dr Obeid said that besides taking part in the conferences and bringing out media organs as well as actively participating through the audio-visual media in such programmes, the MWL focused attention particularly on human rights in Islam.

It accordingly, sponsored or assisted in sponsoring seminars on this subject in Italy, Switzerland and Brazil. The MWL also plans to hold three symposia, one each in Lebanon, Britain and Kyrgyzstan on this subject. The League also took part in the dialogues of civilizations and attended the summit

MWL Council

A section of the audience at the opening ceremony of the MWL Counstituent Council's 36th session. The gathering included scholars, senior government officials, diplomats and prominent invitees.

conference of the religious leaders, held in New York.

The MWL has set up two funds, one to assist Islamic Da'wah work and education and another for mosque development. The League is also planning to set up a number of international bodies and councils in the fields of Da'wah education, media, memorization of the Qur'an and the care for the Muslim family, child and new converts.

The MWL Secretary-General, at the end of his address, called for increased cooperation among Islamic organizations and Da'wah workers in order to protect the Ummah from attacks on its beliefs, traditions and values, taking full advantage of the modern means of communication.



After the inaugural session, the MWL Constituent Council got

down to business under the chairmanship of its President, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdullah Al-Shaikh, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia. Attended by the members of the Council, the league's apex body discussed a number of topics concerned with the work and activities of the MWL Secretariat-General as well as other Islamic issues related to the Muslim peoples as well as Muslim minorities living under non-Muslim governments.

The Council also looked into the topics listed on the agenda and took up for discussion the MWL annual reports and the various proposals contained therein as well as the suggestions put forward by the members of the Constituent Council.

During the first working session, the President of the MWL Constituent Council, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdullah Al-Shaikh, announced to the Council that the tenure of Dr. Abdullah Ibn Saleh Al-

Obeid as the Secretary-General of the MWL had expired on Friday, 7 Sha'ban 1421H, according to the Basic Rules and Regulations of the Muslim World League, which stipulates a five-year period for its chief executive.

Shaikh Abdul Aziz then proposed the name of Dr. Abdullah Ibn Abdul Mohsen Al-Turki as the new Secretary-General, which was endorsed by the Council members. Shaikh Abdul Aziz praised the remarkable efforts made by both Dr. Obeid and Dr. Turki for their services rendered in the cause of Islam and Muslims.

The meeting also welcomed the new members of the Council: Wan Muhammad Noor of Thailand, Abdullah Safa from Tataristan, Muhammad Nazeem of South Africa, Ghatra Watara of Ivory Coast, Osama Khayyat of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Rahman Maidani of Syria, Muhammad Abu Sardana of Palestine and Ahmad Lemu of Nigeria.

The Council discussed during its proceedings a number of Islamic topics and issued the following resolutions and recommendations

Implementation of Islamic Shari'ah

The MWL Constituent Council reaffirmed its earlier calls to the Muslim countries to implement the Islamic Shari'ah and expressed its thanks to the MWL Secretariat-General for taking the necessary steps in this regard. The Council commended the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah by Saudi Arabia in the various spheres of life. It demanded the inclusion of the Islamic education at all levels of the curriculum in the Muslim countries. It also recommended creation of chairs for the Islamic Shari'ah in the law colleges as well as departments for Shari'ah and Arabic language.

It called for utilizing the information media to explain the merits of the Islamic Shari'ah and persuade the Muslims to implement it since its implementation in the Muslim countries is an honour for the Muslim Ummah. The Council welcomed the steps of some Nigerian states towards the enforcement of the Islamic Shari'ah and urged the MWL Secretariat-General to follow up the efforts towards enforcement of the Islamic Shari'ah in other parts of the world.

Al-Quds and Palestine

The MWL Constituent Council reaffirmed its previous resolutions that Al-Quds issue is the foremost concern of the entire Muslim Ummah and the city of Al-Quds is the capital of the independent Pal-

estinian state.

It also expressed its thank and appreciation to King Fahd, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abul Aziz Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard for the establishment of and support to Al-Aqsa and Intifada Funds. The Council appealed to all the Muslim countries and Islamic organizations to support the struggle of the Palestinian people so that Israel accedes to the demands of Intifada.

The Council recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General to work in coordination with relevant Islamic and international organizations to expose the Israeli aggression and lend support to the demand for holding the trial of the Israeli war criminals who committed the barbaric crimes of killing women and children, destroying homes and demolishing the places of worship.

The Council denounced the decision of the US House of Representatives, which condemned the Al-Quds Intifada showing its partisan stance towards Israel and called upon all the Islamic and international organizations to step up humanitarian relief for the victims of the continuous Israeli atrocities. It also asked the Arab and Islamic media to follow up the issue of Al-Quds and Palestine and expose the Israeli designs.

The Council recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General and other Islamic organizations to periodically hold seminars and conferences as well as exhibitions over the issue of Al-Quds in the Muslim and other world capitals. It also rec-

ommended to the ministries of education as well as to the educational and academic institutions in the Muslim world to introduce Al-Quds issue in the educational curriculum. The Council appealed to King Muhammad VI of Morocco, chairman of the OIC Al-Quds Committee, the member countries of the OIC the Islamic and other international organizations to take measures that would force Israel to stop the Judaization of Al-Quds and prevent any geographic and demographic changes in the city, remove the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and activate the international resolutions that nullify such Israeli measures.

The Council appealed to the heads of the Muslim states and governments to give the utmost importance to this issue during their forthcoming OIC summit to be held in Doha State of Qatar. It reminded the Muslims that they constitute one Ummah and it is absolutely essential to evolve a unified Islamic strategy plan to defend Palestine and its people.

Issue of Chechnya

The Council asked the Islamic and other international organizations to extend moral and material assistance to the Chechen Mujahideen in their legitimate struggle. It also asked the Russian Government to allow the relief materials, medicines and medical equipments donated by the philanthropists to the people of Chechnya. It urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Muslim governments to do their best to influence the Russian government to provide the necessary

MWL Council

facilities to the Islamic relief organizations

Kosova

The Council asked the OIC countries take urgent steps to help the Muslims in Kosova and restore their right to self-determination, establish their independent state and try with the Serbs to recognize it. It also called on the Muslim and other countries and organizations to provide the Kosovar Muslims all material and moral aid that may enable them set-up their national institutions and carry out their developmental and re-construction projects.

The Council praised the efforts of the joint Saudi Committee for Relief and Reconstruction in Kosova. It recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General to form an international body of lawyers to claim compensation from the Governments of Yugoslavia and Russia through proper international channels for the damages inflicted upon the thousands of Muslims as a result of their genocidal campaigns. It reminded the OIC of the sufferings of the Muslims in the Republics of Yugoslavia and Montenegro and called upon it to try to solve their problems with all possible means.

Jammu & Kashmir

The Council asked the Muslim governments and organizations to put pressure on the government of India to stop its violations of the human rights in Kashmir and resolve this issue according to the UN resolutions related to the self-determination of the Kashmiri people. It called upon the OIC coun-



The MWL Constituent Council reiterated the paramount importance of the issue of Al Quds and Palestine for the Muslim Ummah. Israeli expansionist policies have turned the region into an arena of conflict.

tries to review their relations with India if it does not respond to this demand positively.

It recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General as well as other Islamic relief organizations to provide every possible support to the people of Kashmir in their struggle for preserving their Islamic identity.

Afghanistan

The Constituent Council condemned the interference of some foreign countries in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and their supply of arms and ammunition to some of the warring factions, which has caused a huge loss of lives and properties. It asked them to stop this interference and work towards ending this conflict.

The Council urged all the peo-

ple of Afghanistan to work to end bloodshed, fighting reminding them that fighting and bloodshed are prohibited by their religion. It expressed its appreciation to the OIC, which made its utmost efforts to find out a solution to the problem of fighting among the various factions engaged in the conflict in Afghanistan. It called upon the OIC to step up its good efforts among the various factions to the conflict.

The Council recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General and other Muslim organizations to extend their relief assistance to the Afghan Muslims displaced by the civil war, especially the children orphans and widows, and meet their basic needs in order to save them from the Christian missionaries and their corrupt means.

The Council recommended the formation of an Islamic committee

to mediate among the warring parties, and urged an initiative to be taken in this regard

Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Constituent Council expressed its appreciation to the President Ali Izetbegovich of Bosnia-Herzegovina for his struggle and Jihad that led to recognition of this country as an independent state. It asked the Muslim countries and other financial and economic institutions as well as individual businessmen to take care of the Bosnian economy and support it with viable projects

The Council extended its thanks to Saudi Arabia for its unlimited material and moral support to the Bosnian people. It also lauded the efforts made by Prince Salman Ibn Abdul Aziz, Emir of Riyadh and Chairman of the Higher Committee for Assisting the Bosnian Muslims in the reconstruction of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Somalia

The Constituent Council of the Muslim World League appreciated the efforts of the President of Djibouti and his Government to achieve national reconciliation, in Somalia and appeals all the leaders of the Somali factions to respond to what led to the religion of Allah calls for by putting an end to bloodshed and disunity

It called upon the Muslim and other countries and organizations to extend their material and moral support to the government of President Abdul Qassem Salad Hossain to establish national unity and reconstruction of Somalia



A Kosova refugee boy and his sister stand behind a wire fence in a refugee camp. The MWL Council called for urgent steps to help the Muslims of that war ravaged province

Eastern Turkestan

The MWL Constituent Council called upon the Muslim governments and organizations to urge their embassies and diplomatic cultural and economic missions to take special care by way of paying visits to the Muslim areas in China. It also called on the OIC countries to utilize their diplomatic relations with China for granting the Muslims freedom of worship and movement to perform Hajj and Umrah as well as organize the Qur'an study circles and religious discourses and travel abroad of the Muslim students for education

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for facilitating the Hajj for all the Muslims and hosting thousands of Muslims from the Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia

It called on the Muslim countries and organizations to facilitate the admission of the Muslim stu-

dents of Turkestan to their universities and institutes and grant them scholarships and support their Islamic organization

Central Asian Countries

The MWL Constituent Council re-emphasized its resolution to send a delegation to the Republic of Tadjikistan. It recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General and other Islamic organizations to strengthen their ties with the concerned religious authorities in the Central Asian Republics, hold seminars and conferences there on Islamic topics and also organize training courses for Imams and Da'wah workers from the Muslim regions in order to meet the requirements of Da'wah workers speaking the local languages

It condemned the spread of the Christian missionary tentacles in the Muslim Central Asian countries and urged the Muslim governments and organizations to

MWL Council

strengthen brotherly relations with the Muslims in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) member countries, and provide their material, moral and technical assistance which may help them boost their Islamic identity and build their religious institutions

Myanmar (Burma)

The Constituent Council recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General and other Islamic relief organizations to continue their material and moral assistance to the Burmese refugees in Bangladesh and Thailand and support their Islamic and social activities

South Philippines

The MWL Constituent Council condemned the abduction of civilians and tourists by some of the so-called Islamic groups and called upon the Muslims to bury their differences and unify their ranks to confront the designs of the anti-Muslim circles. It called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue its efforts to bring to bear pressure on the Philippine Government to adhere fully to the Tripoli Agreement. It also recommended to the MWL Secretariat-General to unify the ranks of the Islamic groups and work with all the Muslim relief organizations and individuals extending assistance to the Muslim victims of atrocities committed by the Philippine army.

Muslim Minorities

The Constituent Council called upon the OIC member-countries to take especial care of the issues related to the Muslim minorities in

order to extend the material and moral assistance to the Islamic societies, centres and institutions in the countries in which the Muslim minorities live and provide scholarships to the Muslim students and extend help for building mosques

The Council highlighted the facilities that helped the Muslims in Italy build their institutions. It reviewed the issues such as the issue of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, the disturbances in Indonesia, Muslim plight in Ivory Coast, Sierra Leon, Liberia and the issue of the Muslim state in Northern Cyprus. It recommended to the Muslim countries to extend every possible assistance to the Muslims in these countries.

Other Islamic issues

The MWL Constituent Council reviewed a number of the issues and questions that concern the Muslims and called for the protection of the family, the Muslim women and children from malicious designs. It also warned against the danger of the destructive movements and called for increased cooperation and coordination among the Muslim governments and non-government agencies in this field.

The Council praised the MWL's participation in the second meeting of the West African Islamic Coordination Committee and welcomed this form of coordination that is in keeping with the policies and programmes of the League.

The Constituent Council emphasized that the human rights were, in fact, first expounded by Islam as it is a religion of truth. It is also a fact that the Islamic Shari'ah

with its comprehensive perception of the human rights preceded the Western world by 14 centuries and that the human rights in the West were not recognized except in the later ages.

The Council, after taking note of the Rome Declaration on Human Rights in Islam issued at the end of the MWL seminar at Rome, in Dhul-Qa'dah 1420H, underscored the significance of the five principles mentioned in the Rome Declaration.

The Council expressed its thank to the MWL Secretariat-General and the affiliated councils and bodies for the various tasks and activities performed by them. The Council also reviewed the proposed amendments in the rules and regulations of the MWL and its affiliated councils and bodies as well as considered the creation of the specialized bodies on Da'wah, Education, Media, new Muslims, Al-Aqsa Mosque and Glorious Qur'an. It authorized the MWL Secretary-General to set up a committee in this regard.

The Constituent Council reminded all the Muslims of the importance of unity in their ranks on the basis of Qur'an and Sunnah and expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Government for providing the MWL with all the facilities that enabled it carry out its duty towards the Muslims brothers in the various parts of the world.

Report **Abrar Ahmad Islahi**
& **Muhammad Nasir**

MWL Note to 9th OIC Summit in Doha

Enforcement of Islamic Shari'ah

All of us are aware of the prevalence of conflicts and disturbances among the Muslims in the various parts of the world. Obviously the only way to rectify the situation and find effective solution to all the individual as well as collective religious problems lies in returning to Allah's Glorious Book and the Sunnah of His Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) and in relying completely on the authentic sources of the Shari'ah i.e. the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah, the consensus of the Ulema and analogy on the one hand, and in the establishment of an effective Islamic court of justice on the other.

While bringing this vital issue to the attention of the august conference the League would like to make the following proposals:

1. Taking keen interest in the enforcement and application of the Shari'ah and adjudicating by its rules in conformity with the divine instructions in Allah's saying: *And this (He commands) Judge between them by what Allah has revealed and follow not their vain desires, but beware of them lest they beguile you from any of that (teaching) which Allah has sent down to you* (Qur'an 5:49)

2. Calling upon Islamic media agen-



Dr. Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al Turki, Secretary General Muslim World League, who led the League's delegation to the OIC Summit held in Doha, Qatar.

cies and publishing houses to project and highlight the supremacy of the Shari'ah and its impact on the human society and to refrain from publishing items that are inimical to the Islamic faith.

3. Appealing to the Islamic states to support the goals of the Islamic court of justice, namely solving the disputes and conflicts among states or among disputing factions within a particular Islamic State.

Once again the Muslim World League would like to make it clear that the only way of saving the masses of the Ummah from the conditions bedeviling them today is to turn back to Allah Almighty, implement His commandments, refrain from all that He has forbidden and teach the

upcoming generations to commit themselves to the Shari'ah.

Islamic Solidarity & World Peace

Islam emerged on the world scene fourteen centuries ago, spread all over the vast and diverse Arabian peninsula within a few years, and united for the first time the hitherto divided and fiercely hostile tribes of the peninsula under one banner and made a best nation out of them. Allah says: *You are the best of peoples evolved for mankind enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah* (Qur'an 3:110). Islam made it clear that usefulness to others, not racial domination is the criterion of excellence. Allah says: *O you who believe! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you* (Qur'an 49:13).

Mankind was witnessing a bitter struggle between the old and the new when Islam emerged. Tired of continuous conflict between ideologies and systems, and emaciated

by successive wars that exposed the entire mankind to danger, new horizons are now opening up towards which mankind is moving inexorably in its desire for peace among all peoples. Of course, this spirit is yet to crystallize because no one has hitherto been able to translate it into a vital and positive principle.

But, as regards Islam, it unequivocally proclaimed this principle i.e. the principle of peace for all, fourteen centuries ago, without limiting it to the most powerful, or to one group of people or to the followers of a particular religion. Rather than regarding peace as a negative and vague concept, Islam elucidated its features and explained its characteristics to cover all aspects of life.

The emergence of Islam was in response to the needs of the entire mankind for a balsam to the sufferings of the distressed. It is this attitude that made the Arabs accept the religion of Allah in throngs. It is the secret behind Islam's rapid spread and its invitation to mankind at large to adopt a life based on worshipping Allah alone and pledging full submission to Him. Islam does not regard this principle, as mere spiritual, mysterious and undefined principle.

On the contrary, it established all aspects of human life and its links to Allah and fellow human beings on crystal clear rules that no doubt lead those, who comply with them to the path of peace and protect them against feud, capitulation and disgrace. Allah says *But honor belongs to Allah and His Apostle and the believers* (Qur'an 63:8).

Islam signifies peace and kindness among its adherents and the others. That is, so long as the others do not fight them because of their religion or evict them from their homes. For in the latter case, they are called upon to fight against injustice and aggression, so as to maintain peace. Peace in Islam embodies the public system. It recognizes no ethnic, racial or class affiliations. Peace between Muslims and other parties must be based on justice. Therefore, the Muslim world must proclaim the principles of Islam and its constitutional rules to the world at large. For, it is the only way to ensure unity and peaceful co-existence among the various races of mankind.

Accordingly, the Muslim World League hopes that your august conference would give the issue of the application of the Shari'ah its utmost attention, and call for the enforcement of its equitable and benevolent principles in the life of nations, individuals and groups, so that harmony would prevail in the world at large. Your conference must urge Muslims to foster the ties of cooperation, so as to be able to come to the rescue of oppressed Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Myanmar (former Burma), Eastern Turkistan, the Philippines and other Muslim minorities.



The Muslim Ummah is currently facing a hostile incursion of vicious trends and cults initiated by the enemies of Islam. The ultimate aim of this ideological aggression is to discredit Islam and destroy Muslim youth by promoting drug abuse

among them and undermining their resolve so as to make them incapable of either nation-building or improving their economic and social standards, in order to remain subjugated to the concepts and intrigues of the enemy.

A quick review of the setbacks the Muslim and the Arab worlds have suffered in the spheres of the ideology, education, economy and heritage a short while ago, will reveal to us that non-enforcement of the Islamic code in all aspects of life, absence of a real sense of solidarity and outstanding disputes among certain Islamic countries are the main factors behind the interference of the enemy in the affairs of the Muslims.

Therefore, the Muslim World League would like your conference to give its utmost attention to this subject and to draw a unified plan of solidarity capable of countering the dangers and conspiracies overtly and covertly hatched by the enemies of Islam, as well as to take necessary measures to protect Muslims and the Islamic countries against all kinds of social perils that may threaten the internal security as well as invite external aggression.

A glaring example of such external aggression is Zionist terrorism, which is perpetrated on the bases of extremist beliefs, fanatic ideology, illusions and myths with the ultimate goal of evicting, killing or exterminating the Arab inhabitants, mostly Muslims, by all means. At this juncture it may be worthwhile to mention that neither the Israeli government nor the judiciary or even the war crimes tribunal have been able to bring to justice such extremists as Naoum

Friedman, the butcher of Jericho or Baruch Goldstein the perpetrator of the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque or even Denis Rohan who set Al-Aqsa alight or Alan Dodman the butcher of the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock and Ariel Sharon, who, together with his armed soldiers stormed the courtyard of Al Aqsa and by so doing violated the sanctity of the Sacred Mosque and provoked Muslims all over the world

Indeed Sharon is the ignominious hero of the Sabra and Shatilla massacres not to mention Meir Kahane the leader of the Kach party and Naoum Arnon the leader of the 400 Jewish settlers in Jericho or Moshe Dayan the one-time chief of the Israeli Defence Force. Strangely all the aforementioned personalities hold the belief that Allah would punish them if they gave away any part of the promised land to the Palestinians and as such any Jew who is able to kill as many Palestinians as he could is considered a saint and if brought to court at all the courts would pronounce him deranged or mad and set him free or fine him. As a matter of fact, these Jewish extremists or fundamentalists are unable to live with the Arabs and the Muslims nay they do not even recognize them as human beings. Therefore they must be exposed to the world and brought to justice as war criminals.

Defending Islam & Correcting Distortions

Among the important issues that the Muslim World League would like to bring to the attention of the Islamic Summit is the unfair cam-

paign that Islam is exposed to in certain Western media circles with a view to distorting its aims and objectives and inciting enmity and resentment against it. The end-purpose of these vicious campaigns is to create a wall of hatred and prejudice between Islam and the people in the West. Unfortunately the negative impact of this behaviour has crossed the borders of the Western countries spreading to many other parts of the world. But the more equitable Western intellectuals have denounced these hostile campaigns and clearly pointed out that such campaigns disregard scientific and historical facts which clearly demonstrate the truth about the noble principles of Islam and the contribution of Muslim scholars to the contemporary human civilization.

According to these Western intellectuals Islam is capable of resuming its historical mission of building a New World Order on the basis of mutual trust and cooperation for mankind's common good and happiness. Therefore one of the most important duties of all Muslims today is to use all the necessary means of communication at their disposal to counter these unfair campaigns and above all to shape modern Islamic societies on the principles of moderation of Islam and rejection of all forms of extremism so that these societies could serve as symbols of common good, present a sound example to others and provide platforms for exchanging views as well as demonstrating in action the principles of tolerance and co-existence among people regardless of creed and their political or intellectual inclinations.

In this regard, the Muslim World League together with many other Islamic organizations has made some efforts towards defence of Islam against the misconceptions promoted by forces inimical to Muslims and their faith especially in the West. The most remarkable among the League's efforts in this regard is the symposium which was held in the Austrian capital Vienna during the month of Sha'ban, 1420 Hijrah (November 1999) under the theme of *Islam's Image in the West as Projected by School Curricula: The Reality and Remedy*. The symposium went a long way in bringing about tangible changes in the attitude of many a Western thinker and intellectual. In this respect the League would call for action on the following lines:

- 1 Strengthening the avenues of joint endeavours between the Islamic governments and the non-governmental Islamic organizations in defending Islam and in preventing any infringement on the fundamentals of Faith and Islamic sanctuaries and correcting the misconceptions spread against it.
- 2 Supporting Islamic universities and other institutions of learning in the West in implementing their programmes.
- 3 Continuing to participate in meetings between Muslims and the representatives of other cultures in order to be able to refute false allegations made against Islam and project the true essence of the principles of Islam.

"Zionist Security" & Israeli Nuclear Weapons

Because of the fact that Israel lives under the grip of fear of the vast Islamic Ocean surrounding it, it has been obsessed with the issue of its security. As a result, Israel has built seven nuclear research

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and manufacturing centers in

- 1 Dimona in the Negev desert
- 2 Suriv (mid west)
- 3 Palmikim a few kilometers away from Suriv
- 4 Yodivat about 30 kilometers from the city of Haifa
- 5 Elabon about 20 kilometers east of Yodivat
- 6 Bir Yacob near the town of Ramallah 35 kilometers north west of Al Quds (Jerusalem)
- 7 Kfar Zaccaria

According to observers, Israel owns between 200 and 300 nuclear warheads, but it has never used any such weapon in its wars with the Arabs. The term "Security for peace" instead of "Land for peace" which was first used by the former Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu is still very much evident in the attitude of the Barak Government. Hence, we believe that, both the Labour and the Likud parties are but the two sides of the same coin. Now, the question is, "How can the Muslim Ummah face the Israeli nuclear threat?" This issue must be raised in all international negotiations so as to subject Israel to international inspection as well as to international laws pertaining to strategic weapons. Besides, the Arabs and the Muslims must be ready to face any possible Israeli nuclear attack.

Dialogue among Cultures

The Muslim World League would like to recall that in response to a proposal by President Muhammad Khatami of Iran the United Nations has declared the year 2001 as the year of dialogue of cultures. Through frequent participation in conferences and symposia

dealing with the question of dialogue of cultures the Muslim World League feels that this presents an opportunity for introducing Islam without any hindrances. Moreover, The Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet are replete with various instances of dialogue with the various sections of mankind. For example, a dialogue between the Prophet (peace be on him), and the Jews of Madinah culminated in signing a pact which reads as follows according to Ibn Hisham:

This is a covenant from Muhammad the Prophet (peace be on him) between the believers and the Muslims from Quraish and Yathrib as well as those who followed and joined them and fought on their side that they are one nation distinct from other peoples.

There is no doubt that the risks facing the contemporary world, and the resultant need for security and peace make the continuation of dialogue inevitable, at least to project the common denominators that could prevent war and work for the happiness of mankind. In this regard it may be safely stated that the principles of Islam provide the framework that is capable of ensuring the success of dialogue and guiding it towards the desired humanitarian goals.

Of course, dialogues are held every now and then by the various Islamic organizations and institutions on the basis of the provisions of Allah's Book and the Sunnah of His Messenger. Differences of opinion have never prevented these organizations from cooperating with other institutions in combating the evils besetting the contemporary world such as athe-

ism, alcoholism and drug dependency, break-up of the family and promotion of extra-marital sexual relations. As a matter of fact, cooperation in this regard is inevitable, for these pervasive trends, which are spread by well-organized pernicious institutions, make cooperation necessary for their combat. So far, cooperation in this respect has produced important results. Furthermore, the Muslim World League has observed that:

1- Apart from the equality of wills, dialogue requires commitment to such goals as would strengthen the position of human values and principles which are the common denominators of all civilizations and cultures.

2 Dialogue between cultures has contributed to a great extent in bringing peoples closer as well as in removing the barriers of mutual misunderstanding and unfounded stereotypes. It is therefore the task of the intellectuals and competent scientific as well as enlightened persons concerned with the destiny of mankind to keep on and even expand the scope of dialogue.

3 In order to make dialogue more effective and useful, concerned institutions and organizations as well as universities and other institutions of learning must call for the setting up of forums in several areas and regions. The aim of these forums will be the promotion of the values of dialogue and paving the way towards understanding and consolidating the human ties between peoples and nations.

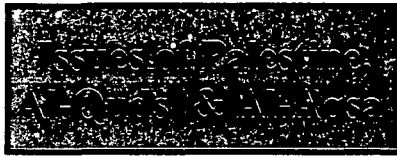
4 Dialogue between the cultures must not be dominated by historical events but rather by issues of serious concern to mankind. The window of dialogue between the cultures can no doubt give the non-Muslim the opportunity of knowing that Islam is a religion of compassion, justice, cooperation and peace and that it advocates protection of mankind from all evils.

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Through dialogue the world would come to know that Islam is the final religion a religion of compassion Allah says *And We send you not but as a Mercy unto mankind* (Qura n 21 107) The world would become aware that Islam enjoins charity for mankind at large Allah says *Let there be from among you a band enjoining good* (Qura n 3 104) Thus performing good deeds for the sake of mankind is one of the most important objectives of Islam Even fair minded Western writers do acknowledge the fact that Islam contains the elements of happiness for mankind and has greatly contributed to empirical sciences The famous orientalist Masizion wrote about the Islamic solution to all these problems He says Islam has the characteristic of representing a sound concept It stands midway between Capitalism and Communism and has an illustrious past in uniting peoples under the basis of equal rights and duties In deed Islam is capable of reconciling between the irreconcilable

In view of the foregoing, the Muslim World League would like the Muslims to take advantage of dialogue between the cultures in order to achieve the following goals

- 1 Explain the fact that Islam is the last Divine message
- 2 Consolidate the bridges of dialogue between the cultures and civilizations
- 3 Project Islamic values of cooperation and understanding among peoples
- 4 Strengthen positive interaction among cultures
- 5 Project Islam's contribution to the contemporary progress
- 6 Rectify misunderstandings and refute false allegations
- 7 Stress on the capacity of the Islamic culture to address modern issues and problems



The Muslim World League together with the peoples and the organizations it represents, considers the problems of Palestine Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque as Islamic problems having deep roots in the Muslim conscience and have special religious significance Furthermore, they are among the most serious problems facing the Muslims in the international arena Therefore, the Muslim World League, which has been following up the problems of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and Al-Aqsa and the conditions surrounding the other Islamic sanctuaries, has issued a number of literature, statements and appeals for the liberation of Al-Quds from the yoke of occupation It has also attended and organized a number of Islamic as well as international symposia and conferences in this regard, and submitted memoranda stating the Islamic point of view regarding the city of Al-Quds and the Islamic sanctuaries it houses, and the need to salvage and return it to the Arabs and the Muslims

Al-Aqsa Mosque & alleged Temple The world must know the extent of Israel's distortion of historical facts concerning the alleged temple In fact historians have confirmed that the first Israeli temple which was built by Prophet Solomon in the year 1000 BC was demolished by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in the year 586 BC The second temple which was built by Herodes in the year 18 BC was demolished by Titus of Rome in the

year 70 BC All its traces were later on removed by Hadrian of Rome in the year 135 AD who forbade the Jews from living in the city of Al-Quds According to the historians, Muslims have no hand either in the action of the Babylonians or in the atrocities committed by the Romans against the Jews, since Islam emerged only in the 7th century

The historians further stress the fact that it were the Muslims who rather treated the Jews well following their expulsion from Spain at the beginning of the 16th century Nevertheless since the occupation of Al-Quds in 1967 the Israelis have been perpetrating all forms of criminal as well as arbitrary acts against the Muslims Perhaps the most heinous crimes committed by the Israelis took place in 1969 when the Al-Aqsa Mosque was set ablaze, an armed assault on the 'Dome of the Rock' that took place in 1982 and later the massacre committed in Al-Aqsa Mosque Likewise were the attempts to blow up the blessed Mosque with explosives, Jewish attempts to observe prayers in it and the excavations underneath and around the Mosque designed to weaken its foundations as well as the foundations of other historical buildings around it

In fact the Israelis have declared their determination to build the third temple on the site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and published drawings confirming this intention Furthermore, as recently as last month, a band of Jews tried to lay the foundation stone of the alleged temple in utter disregard of the resolution adopted and submitted by the international committee to the

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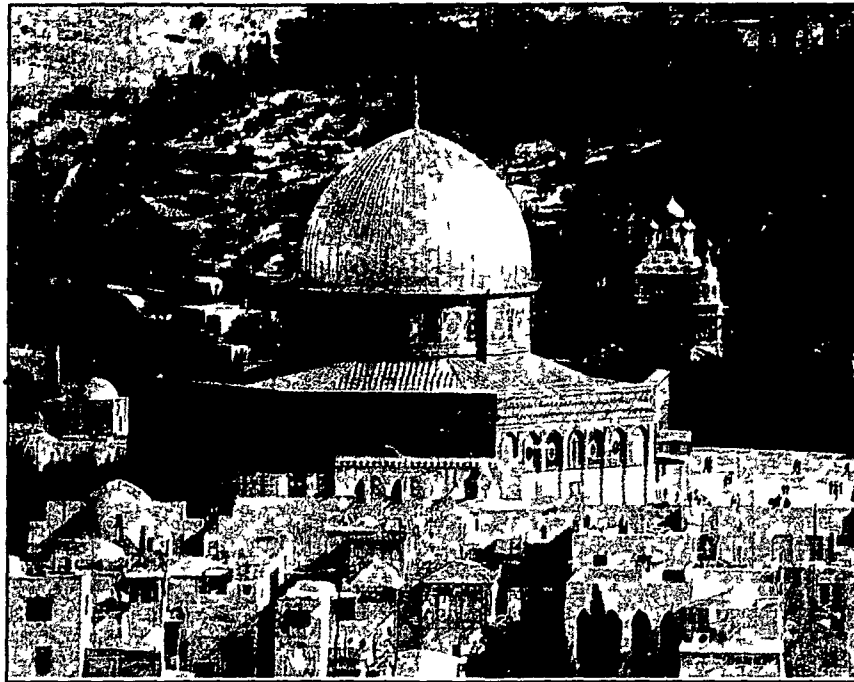
League of Nations in 1930 to the effect that the Western Wall belongs to the Islamic endowment, and is a part of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque

Therefore, in view of the information that certain Palestinian factions have demonstrated their willingness to cede the Al-Buraq Wall to the Israelis, the Muslim World League calls upon this Summit to adopt a clear and decisive resolution to the effect that no Muslim is entitled to cede to any party whomsoever, a right belonging to Muslims in general, and which is regarded as part of their endowments

US Muslims & Palestine issue

The Muslim World League has followed the attitudes of the Arab leaders in the Arab Summit convened some weeks ago in Cairo and noted that Saudi Arabia, through a speech delivered by Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, demanded from USA to maintain justice among negotiating parties and play the role of an honest mediator. Furthermore the Muslim World League feels that this matter requires to be tackled through economic and political measures by the Arab states in the light of their rights and in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the international community

Likewise, it may be useful to make use of contacts with prominent American politicians as well as public opinion in the US through American Muslims living there as well as through Arab and Islamic organizations, associations and centres functioning in that country



The MWL asserted in its note the need to address the problems of Palestine Al Quds and Al Aqsa Mosque as they are foremost Islamic concerns

We see that the numbers of Arab and Muslim communities in North America have increased substantially and they have established organizations, associations and centres that effectively deal with the social and cultural issues

However, their involvement in political issues started in 1972 when an Arab lobby was established to exercise pressure on the US decision-makers as regards the American policy in the Middle East starting with the President, his advisers, Secretary of State Department and the members of the Congress, through the National Association for Arab-Americans which can provide American officials with correct information on various issues as well as give its viewpoints regarding the developments in the Arab region, especially in Palestine. The Association

publishes articles in the American newspapers and journals and also responds to letters sent by people seeking information on Arab issues

However, it is noted that the level of coordination among Arab and Islamic states and the said Association is not so strong, especially after the commencement of peace process and shrinkage of support it used to receive in order to discharge its functions properly in USA. Therefore it is appropriate to reconsider rendering material and moral support to Islamic and Arab centres associations in USA with all legitimate means so that they can improve the image of Muslims in the said country and perform tasks that are expected to influence decision-makers and reflect positively their efforts on the issue of Al-Quds and Palestine, the fact that may assist in adopting resolutions

beneficial to both Muslims and Palestinian cause

Demands of the Muslim Ummah

What we have mentioned in this memorandum about Palestine Al-Quds and Aqsa Mosque is only a part of follow-up activities. Furthermore, your knowledge of the evasive Israeli attitudes in negotiations, since Madrid Conference makes it necessary for the Islamic Ummah to confront these attitudes with firm unified and truly Islamic stances. For the subsequent bloody incidents, which have been taking place for almost half a century have proven that diplomatic and legal methods, including the resolutions of the Security Council and UN, have unfortunately, failed to bring Israel to respond to the will of the international community in ceasing aggression and preventing occupation of territories as well as expulsion of its real owners.

Therefore, the Muslim World League deems it appropriate to draw your kind attention to a number of relevant suggestions as well as requests made by Arab and Muslim nations, hoping that they will assist this summit in its deliberations. The suggestions and demands include the following:

1 To press for the Arab and Islamic rights in Quds and Palestine as indicated in the address delivered by Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia at the Arab Summit Conference convened in Cairo, Egypt last month that shows his keenness to save the Islamic sanctuaries, the foremost of which is the blessed Aqsa Mosque by freeing it from illegal occupation, desecration and betrayal.

2 To support the struggle (*Jihad*) of Palestinian people which is repre-

sented today in the blessed Aqsa Mosque Uprising (*Intifada*) to render to it every possible assistance till Israel yields to demands and withdraws all its troops from the territories of the Palestinian Authority it had occupied to recognize the exclusive Muslim sovereignty over the blessed Aqsa Mosque and other Islamic sanctuaries and to prevent targeting and desecrating these sanctuaries as well as making it desist from all provocative practices as flagrantly shown by Sharon and his troops.

3 To support through international peace loving forums the demands of the Palestine National Authority regarding investigation into the incidents involving Jewish criminals of wars who caused the bloody incidents and ignited the disturbances in Quds and other cities, the act that led to the death of many Palestinians martyrs and caused injury to thousands of others.

4 To resort to the exploitation of economic interests by influencing attitudes of countries supporting Israel and employing the weapon of economic boycott which is considered to be one of the most significant achievements and resolutions of the Arab League and Organization of Islamic Conference especially if we consider the fact that such a weapon proved extremely effective when it was used for achieving Islamic interests.

5 To reject outright all types of Zionist settlement in Palestine and to insist on implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions preventing the building of settlements or making any geographical or demographic changes in Al Quds, its surrounding areas and in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and to stop harassing or expelling the inhabitants of Al Quds as well as frustrate all designs to Judaize the Holy City and Palestine.

6 To make all possible efforts to assist all refugees and homeless Palestinians to return to their land and call on the UN to implement Security Council resolution No. 194 which

calls for permitting the return of refugees that was condition set by UN for admitting Israel to the World Body—a fact that necessitates that Israel should be disqualified as a member of UN if it refuses to implement the above resolution and that the relevant deterrent law should be enforced against it.

7 To consider that the huge Israeli nuclear arsenal poses a grave threat to Islamic and global peace and to request the international community to implement international laws that prevent proliferation of strategic weapons and bring all of Israeli nuclear weapons manufacture and assembly sites under international inspection so that it can implement relevant resolutions adopted by the international community for the protection of mankind against dangers of strategic weapons.

8 To support the establishment of the independent State of Palestine with Al Quds as its capital, give it all required assistance to help it build its political, social, economic and military institutions and to protect them from any Israeli aggression and declare immediately the Islamic recognition of the said state and call upon the international community to recognize it and safeguard it against any aggression.

9 To call on mass media of Muslim states to follow up the issue of Al Quds as well as those of Palestinian people support this important cause so as to be able to refute false Zionist media lies and propaganda which Israel seeks to promote with a view to obliterating the Arab right and distorting historical facts and reality behind incidents currently taking place in Palestine.

(To be concluded)

Ninth OIC Summit in Doha Tackles Palestine Issue

Iranian President Muhammad Khatami opened the 9th Islamic Summit in Doha on 12 November, 2000, with a tribute to Palestinians' passionate blood and a call on the United States and other powers to reconsider their Middle-East policies.

President Khatami also called on Muslim countries to "open up new opportunities to accommodate different manifestations of religious faith and to promote people's participation in determining their destiny."

President Khatami's speech marked the end of Iran's three-year chairmanship of the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference. He handed over leadership of the pan-Islamic body to Qatar with a call to the participants to unite. Twenty-four heads of state attended the 9th Summit in Doha in addition to Prime Ministers and other senior officials.

The Iranian leader began his address by asking participants to stand and recite a special verse for the dead from the Glorious Qur'an, to honour Palestinians killed in the latest violence.

President Khatami said Israel's

withdrawal from South Lebanon in May following a 22-year occupation was 'a turning point in the fate of the occupied territories - a distinct demonstration of pride, unity, understanding and coordination.'

The Iranian leader said peace in the region could only be achieved when all Palestinians return to their homeland and establish a democratic Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He spoke of "beloved Palestine - the downtrodden land burning in the flames of fury of its usurpers and its virtuous soil being nurtured with the passionate blood of Palestinian children, youth, men and women."

Leaders in their opening speeches made clear their blame for the recent bloodshed rests squarely on Israel. Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir called for 'Jihad in all its forms, against Israel support for the Palestinian uprising and an end to any sort of normalization of relations with Israel.'

Qatar's Shaikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al-Thani, taking over as OIC president for three years from President Khatami, urged leaders of the world's 1.5 billion Muslims to draw up a common strategy. "We say to the world that the Middle East conflict will not end until the

withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian territories, Golan and Lebanese territories," he said.

The Qatari ruler, whose country was hosting the Summit, said peace cannot materialize during occupation or while there are "provocative acts, threats and desecration of our sacred places."

"Israel has to choose between the prospect of living in peace and security in this region or the dragging on of this conflict for decades and generations with all the resulting catastrophes and tragedies for all countries of the region and their peoples," Shaikh Hamad said.

In his address, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat vowed to keep up the anti-Israeli uprising. "Our people are now more than ever determined to pursue their struggle through the Al-Aqsa uprising," Arafat told the three-day Summit referring to the Holy Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds (Jerusalem), which is the third holiest site in Islam.

"It is an uprising for liberty and independence, to shake off the clutches of occupation," he said. "The Palestinian people know the importance of the sacrifices they have to make to realize this objective," Arafat added. His fighting

speech was peppered with calls for Muslims and Christians to unite in defence of Jerusalem, as three Palestinian Christian clerics in his delegation sat among the delegates from the Islamic world

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad said that Islamic countries should break down trade barriers between them and work to enhance trade and economic cooperation within the Islamic world

Mahathir said Muslims in rich countries should be encouraged to invest in poorer Muslim countries that have knowhow and technology but lack capital 'Globalization can be a powerful and dynamic force for strengthening Islamic cooperation and accelerating growth and development Our task is to ensure that its benefits are spread to all and not merely to a privileged few,' he said

Saudi Arabia called for severing diplomatic relations with any country that transfers its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the Holy City of Jerusalem "It is our duty to underline the need to break diplomatic relations with any country which transfers its embassy to Jerusalem," said Crown Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard

In his key-note address, Prince Abdullah also called for effective and united OIC action to face the challenges He said the Muslim world was looking forward to the Summit with great expectations that it would take an honourable stand on Islamic issues, most importantly, Jerusalem

Prince Abdullah also urged member-states of the Organization



The opening session of the 9th OIC Summit in Doha, Qatar. The conference was attended by leaders from 56 Islamic nations

of the Islamic Conference 'to reduce to a minimum their relations with Israel or to freeze them completely' He said OIC states must link all contact with the Jewish state to concrete progress in the peace process, not only on the Palestinian track but on all tracks, he said, referring to Israel's frozen peace talks with Syria and Lebanon

Prince Abdullah reminded the Muslim leaders that the OIC was formed against the backdrop of the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israel "After the passage of 30 years, we are now facing a similar challenge," he said He lamented that the Muslim world had failed—even after the burning of Al-Aqsa—to take a united action and strategy to prevent Israel from reinforcing its occupation and imposing a *fait accompli* in Jerusalem

The future of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territories is a trust upon your shoulders,"

Prince Abdullah told the OIC leaders 'Our Ummah is passing through a delicate phase which necessitates the reactivating of firm bases for practical Islamic solidarity,' he said and added that the Muslim world was still seeking peace, based on justice We reject a settlement that leads to injustice and humiliation,' he stated

The Saudi leader urged OIC countries to work for the success of the cause of Al-Quds before asking others for help "We should stand with truth and justice with all our potentials," he added and pointed out that the Muslim world would not be able to restore its legitimate rights with help from others "We don't have any support — aside from reposing our Faith in Allah — except our own strength and potentials," he said

Prince Abdullah stressed that the present situation of Palestinians necessitated the mobilization of all potentials and preparing economic